

June 14, 2019

Humboldt Wind Project Planner
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Dept, Planning Division
3015 H St, Eureka, CA 95501
CEQAResponses@co.humboldt.ca.us

Dear Humboldt Wind Project Planner, Cliff Johnson, John Ford, Planning Dept and Board of Supervisors:

Here are my additional comments on what I view ultimately as an ill-conceived project, a project that will be massively destructive to the environment in the name of “saving the environment.”

This DEIR at best has been presented prematurely because much of the planning work necessary to make sure that this project is not environmentally dangerous has not yet been done and presented to the County and Public for review. The Humboldt Wind LLC (Humboldt Redwood Co and Terra-Gen) appears to be in an unwise rush to start this project quickly *without adequately addressing multiple serious issues in the DEIR and creating appropriate plans to mitigate them*. Perhaps the rush is a result of the expiring wind project tax credits?

Even the biggest wind investor in the US, Warren Buffet admits that wind farms don't make sense without tax credits. "I will do anything that is basically covered by the law to reduce Berkshire's tax rate," Buffet told an audience in Omaha, Nebraska recently. "For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That's the only reason to build them. They don't make sense without the tax credit."

We need good alternative sources of clean energy, but the potential environmental devastation/threat of this project, if built, on balance, would far outweigh any benefits to Humboldt County and California.

Here are additional specific comments on the DEIR for this colossal wind turbine project by section:

DEIR Section:

2.2.1 Project location. This project is located on or near an earthquake fault line. This poses a deadly environment threat. An earthquake about 20 years ago in Scotia caused severe destruction to the Scotia environment. The California Fish and Game Dept already said in a letter to the County that the chosen location may be inappropriate because of the



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I188-2

serious environmental impacts across a wide spectrum: to animals, plants, rivers, trees. The appropriate mitigation to these serious environmental threats is to move this wind turbine project elsewhere.

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(Cont.)

2.4.2 Lighting Requirements. There is no adequate mitigation plan. Light pollution is an extremely serious environmental threat to humans and animals in southern Humboldt County.

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This feature is premature and, as is, it poses serious environmental impacts to human habitat, and to that of endangered species. It has not been reviewed and approved by the FAA, so it may be a serious environmental impact to aircraft. This feature needs to be reviewed by the public, AFTER it has been approved by the FAA, not BEFORE. Mitigations may be required after closer scrutiny.

3-10-Hydrology and Water Quality

There is no adequate mitigation plan. Water pollution is an extremely serious environmental threat.

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Water is a precious commodity in Scotia. The cost of water in Scotia is already exorbitantly high (twice as much as Fortuna), and Scotia water must be conserved for residents and for putting out emergency fires. A plan needs to developed and presented to the public for review.

3.10-1 Erosion Control Plan

There is no adequate mitigation plan. Erosion is an extremely serious environmental threat. A plan needs to developed and presented to the public for review.

3.11 Noise

There is no adequate mitigation plan. Noise pollution is an extremely serious environmental threat to humans and animals. Scotia residents already suffer the extreme noise pollution of the Humboldt Redwood Company mill once or twice a month when the noise sounds like a jet taking off. More noise in Scotia would be untenable to residents here, with serious potential impacts to residents' health. A plan needs to developed and presented to the public for review.

I188-5

3.12-1 Transportation Route Plan

There is no adequate mitigation plan. Excessive traffic and the resulting excessive carbon emissions pose a serious environmental threat to human and animal habitats. A plan needs to developed and presented to the public for review.

I188-6

3.12-1 Rehabilitation/Reconstruction County Rds

There is no adequate mitigation plan. County roads are already in bad shape and this is already an environmental threat. A plan needs to developed and presented to the public for review.

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3.12-1a Fire Services Financing Plan

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There is no plan. Fire is an extremely serious environmental threat in Scotia and on the ridges. A plan needs to be developed and presented to the public for review.

3.13-2a Fire Safety/Management Plan

There is no plan. Fire is an extremely serious environmental threat. In Scotia and on the ridges A plan needs to be developed and presented to the public for review.

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(Cont.)

"Today's massive loss of species and habitat will be slowed only when the human community understands that nature is not an inferior to be exploited or an enemy to be destroyed but an ally requiring respect and replenishment. We are part of the web of life. Many strands already have broken. We must act quickly to repair what we can. Our lives and livelihood depend on it."

-United Nations Environment Programme

Sincerely,

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